

Morse code users have been using the code for a long time. I can understand their feelings that the use of code as a mode is being threatened. To them I would say that if it ever comes down to such an issue that they can count on my support. However Amateur radio is much like the world we live in where there are several means of communication. There is the spoken communication, sign language, written etc. Having a rule requiring proficiency in any one mode or group of modes for the purpose of communicating would be similar to the UN requiring that the world be able to speak any number of languages in order to travel to different countries. If Amateur radio were using morse code only then requiring knowledge of it would be vital. So far most of the comments seem to center around an operator's personal preference. I intend to learn the code, but because I want to not because it is an ultimatum. Most Amateur operators are mature enough to make their own minds up as to which mode they will use and which ones they will not use. At the WRC 2003 the majority of the countries have said that they feel the same way. So I would respectfully request that the FCC drop the requirement for Morse code testing (Element 1) and allow the Amateur community to decide for itself which modes they wish to use. Thank you